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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Marshall Islands, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and and United States of America: draft resolution

Bilateral nuclear arms negotiations and nuclear disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions,

Recognizing the fundamental changes that have taken place with respect to international security, which have permitted agreements on deep reductions in the nuclear armaments of the States possessing the largest inventories of such weapons,

Mindful that it is the responsibility and obligation of all States to contribute to the process of the relaxation of international tension and to the strengthening of international peace and security and, in this connection, to adopt and implement measures towards the attainment of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Appreciating a number of positive developments in the field of nuclear disarmament, in particular the Treaty between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on the Elimination of Their

Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, and the treaties on the reduction and limitation of strategic offensive arms,

Appreciating also the indefinite extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and acknowledging the importance of the determined pursuit by the nuclear-weapon States of systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of eliminating those weapons, and by all States of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Welcoming the steps that have already been taken by the Russian Federation and the United States of America to begin the process of reducing the number of nuclear weapons and removing such weapons from a deployed status, and bilateral agreements on de-targeting strategic nuclear missiles,

Noting the new climate of relations between the States of the Former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, which permits them to intensify their cooperative efforts to ensure the safety, security, and environmentally sound destruction of nuclear weapons,

Recalling the Moscow Summit Declaration on Nuclear Safety and Security of April 1996,

Urging early action to complete the ratification of the Treaty on the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms and further intensification of efforts to accelerate the implementation of agreements and unilateral decisions relating to nuclear arms reduction,

Appreciating the joint statement on future reductions in nuclear forces and the joint statement outlining the elements of an agreement for higher-velocity theatre missile defence systems, both issued 21 March 1997 by the Russian Federation and the United States of America, as well as their joint statement of 10 May 1995 in connection with the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems,

Welcoming the significant reductions made by other nuclear-weapon States, and encouraging all nuclear-weapon States to consider appropriate measures relating to nuclear disarmament,

1. Welcomes the entry into force of the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, signed in Moscow on 31 July 1991 by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, including the Protocol to that Treaty signed at Lisbon on 23 May 1992 by the parties thereto, and the exchange of documents of ratification between Belarus, Kazakstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and United States of America, on 5 December 1994 at Budapest;

2. Also welcomes the signing of the Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms in Moscow on 3 January 1993, and urges the parties to take the steps necessary to bring that Treaty into force at the earliest possible date;

3. Also welcomes the joint statement issued on 21 March 1997 in Helsinki, in which Presidents Yeltsin and Clinton reached an understanding that after the entry into force of START II, their two countries would immediately commence negotiations on a START III Agreement, which would include the establishment, by 31 December 2007, of lower aggregate levels of 2,000 to 2,500 strategic nuclear warheads, take measures relating to the transparency of strategic nuclear warhead inventories and destruction of strategic nuclear warheads, and carry out other actions to promote the irreversibility of these deep reductions;

4. Notes with satisfaction the protocol to START II, the Joint Agreed Statement, and the Letters on Early Deactivation, signed by the Russian Federation and the United States in New York on 26 September 1997, which are intended to promote the further process of still deeper reductions and limitations of strategic offensive arms;

5. Welcomes the 26 September 1997 signing by Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States of America of a number of significant agreements that contribute to ensuring the viability of the ABM Treaty;

6. Expresses its satisfaction at the entry into force and ongoing implementation of the 1991 Treaty as well as the advice and consent of the Senate of the United States of America to the 1993 Treaty, and expresses its hope that it will soon be possible for the Russian Federation to take corresponding steps for ratifying that Treaty;

7. Expresses further satisfaction at the continuing implementation of the Treaty between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States on the Elimination of their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, in particular at the completion by the parties of the destruction of all their declared missiles subject to elimination under the Treaty;

8. Welcomes the removal of all nuclear weapons from the territory of Kazakhstan as of 1 June 1995, from the territory of Ukraine as of 1 June 1996, and from the territory of Belarus as of 30 November 1996;

9. Encourages Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States of America to continue their cooperative efforts aimed at eliminating nuclear weapons and strategic offensive arms on the basis of existing agreements, and welcomes the contributions that other States are making to such cooperation as well;

10. Welcomes the participation in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine as non-nuclear States, which thereby provided notable enhancement of the non-proliferation regime;

11. Urges the Russian Federation and the United States of America to commence negotiations on a START III agreement immediately after START II enters into force, thereby realizing the understandings they reached in the Joint Statement issued in Helsinki;

12. Encourages and supports the Russian Federation and the United States of America in their efforts to reduce their nuclear weapons and to continue to give

those efforts the highest priority in order to contribute to the ultimate goal of eliminating those weapons;

13. Invites the Russian Federation and the United States of America to keep other States members of the United Nations duly informed of progress in their discussions and in the implementation of their strategic offensive arms agreements and unilateral decisions.